

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims relating to the above-captioned patent application, as amended herein and with the status thereof, are as follows:

5 1-39. (Canceled)

40. (Original) A method for flying a slider relative to a data storage medium, said slider comprising a first air bearing pad and a transducer, said method comprising the step of:

10 flying said slider above said data storage medium, wherein said flying step comprises pressurizing a fluid between said first air bearing pad so that a pressure that is exerted on at least part of said first air bearing pad is at least about 400 psi; and

15 exchanging at least one signal between said transducer and said data storage medium during at least a portion of said flying step.

41. (Original) A method, as claimed in Claim 40, wherein:
15 said pressure that is exerted on at least part of said first air bearing pad is about 500 psi.

42. (Original) A method, as claimed in Claim 40, wherein:
15 said flying step comprises exerting a lifting force on a lower surface of said slider that has said first air bearing pad, wherein a portion of said lifting force that is exerted on said first air bearing pad is at least about 15 percent of a total said lifting force that is exerted on said lower 20 surface of said slider.

43. (Original) A method, as claimed in Claim 40, wherein:

5 said flying step comprises flying said slider at a first fly height above said data storage medium, said exchanging step comprises providing a signal to said transducer, and said method further comprises expanding said first air bearing pad in a direction of said data storage medium from said providing step, wherein said flying step comprises flying said slider at a second fly height after said expanding step, wherein said second fly height is less than said first fly height by no more than about 20 percent of said first fly height.

10 44. (Original) A method for flying a slider relative to a data storage medium, said slider comprising a first air bearing pad and a transducer disposed within said first air bearing pad, said method comprising the steps of:

executing a first flying step comprising flying said slider at a first fly height above said data storage medium;

providing a signal to said transducer during said executing a first flying step;

15 expanding said first air bearing pad in a direction of said data storage medium during said providing step; and

executing a second flying step comprising flying said slider at a second fly height after said expanding step, wherein said second fly height is less than said first fly height by no more than about 20 percent of said first fly height.

45. (Original) A method, as claimed in Claim 44, wherein:

20 at least one of said executing a first and second flying step comprises pressurizing a fluid between said first air bearing pad so that a pressure that is exerted on at least part of said first air bearing pad is at least about 400 psi.

46. (Original) A method, as claimed in Claim 44, wherein:

said pressure that is exerted on at least part of said first air bearing pad is at least about 400 psi.

47. (Original) A method, as claimed in Claim 44, wherein:

5 at least one of said executing a first and second flying step comprises exerting a lifting force on a lower surface of said slider that has said first air bearing pad, wherein a portion of said lifting force that is exerted on said first air bearing pad is at least about 15 percent of a total said lifting force that is exerted on said lower surface of said slider.